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Miscellany.

CONCERT OF THE POETS. SHUFFLEBOTHAM'S DREAM.

Honoured Mr. North,

You need not shrug your shoulders at the commencement of this epistle. I know well enough how great a *bore*, as your modern young gentlemen elegantly term it, it is, in general, to tell one's dreams. "Babbling dreams," Shakspeare calls them; and, to be sure, for the most part, they have all the disadvantage of fiction, joined to the triteness of common-place reality. But this that I am going to give you is, as far as I can see, as agreeable as any realities I have to send you at present from Gowks-Hall, excepting, peradventure, the smoked flitch which accompanies this, and which Dinah says, she hopes, is quite equal to that you liked so well when you did us the honour to stop a day or two last back-end. However, I must not wander from my subject, considering that I am now only relating a dream, and not dreaming one. Well, I had got comfortably settled the other night, in the old stuffed arm chair by the fire, after having, at last, sent off to bed your friend Roger, who had been deafening us all the evening with practising "Tantivy," "Up in the morning early," and "the Lass of Livingstone," upon the old French hunting horn that hangs in the hall; and sister Dinah had left me to enjoy my pipe, ewe-milk cheese, and jug of mulled October, (old John has made a capital brewage of it this year, Mr. North, you'll be glad to hear,) together with a volume of Anderson's Poet's, when some how or other, I dropped asleep. Then followed the oddest vision that ever I knew or heard of, all as regular as clockwork as one may say.

Methought I found myself, all at once, in a long room, with a gallery, like a concert room, and that, in the gallery, was an audience, as for a concert. I thought, however, that I was in the body of the room, and not in the gallery, and there came into me a whole company of people, with musical instruments in their hands, whom I

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knew at once, I cannot tell how, to be poets. To be sure, some of them had an out-of-the-world look enough—but there's no accounting for these things in dreams. There they all stood at their music stands, as natural as the life, just as fiddlers do: and, as I remembered, they first all played together the sweetest and wildest harmony I ever heard: indeed, it seemed quite supernatural, and put me into a sort of amaze, and made me gasp for breath, with a feeling such as one recollects to have had, when a boy, in a swing whilst on the return. After that they chimed in, one by one, to play *solos*, I think the musicians call them; and some, whose turns were far off, I thought, stood about and came near me, and appeared very affable and familiar. The oddest thing was, that I always knew perfectly who played, though how I came by the knowledge I cannot tell.

The first that played was a pale noble looking man, whom I knew at first sight to be L—d B—n, and he gave us a solo on the serpent, such as are used in military bands. One would think this was a strange instrument to play solos upon—but such playing you never heard; he seemed to have such command over it, that he could make it almost as soft and mellow as a flute; and the depth and beautiful inflections of his lower tones were miraculous. I sometimes could not help feeling a mistiness about the eyes, and a heavy palpitation of the heart. Perhaps the ewe milk cheese and mulled October might have something to do with this—but there's no accounting for any thing in dreams. After him a well dressed gentleman, who was no other than Mr. C—mp—ll, gave us a sonata on the violin, which he played very scientifically, though, to my mind, he seemed very timorous, and played a weak bow. However, he got plenty of applause, both from his companions and the spectators in the gallery.

He had hardly finished, when up stalked a grave, plain looking man, with a sort of absent air, and his hair combed smoothly

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over his forehead, something like a methodist preacher. He would have neither music book nor music stand, nor did I see any instrument he had—when, to my astonishment, I overheard somebody whisper, “W—dsw—th’s going to give us a grand concerto on the Jew’s harp he bought last week of a philosophical Jew peddler from Kirby Steven.” And so he did; and, what is more, the concerto was well worth the hearing. You would not believe, Mr. North, what tones he brought out of his gewgaw, as we call it in this country side. The man at Liverpool was nothing to him. He got thunders of applause, though I could see some laughed, and some few sneered, and some wicked wag had the impudence to call out, “well done, *smouch!*” I rather suspected that this came from some of the poets about me, for I saw L—d B——n and little M—re laughing, behind, as if they would split. However, it evidently vexed Mr. W—dsw—th sadly, for he turned away in a pet, and walked into a corner, which occasioned a sort of pause. In the corner where he went stood a very antique looking, magnificent organ, to which he sat down; and, on looking more intently, I discovered the name of Milton in gilt letters on the front, from which I inferred that it had formerly belonged to him. Mr. W—dsw—th, to show, I suppose, that he could play if he chose, struck a bar or two in such grand Miltonic style, as immediately silenced the laughers.

Order, however, was not long kept, for little M—re’s jokes were not to be suppressed even during Mr. S—th—y’s grand Maestoso flourish on the trumpet. The trumpet was an old one, having been used ever since queen Elizabeth’s time in the coronation of our sovereigns; and, from an unfortunate bruise or two, had begun, as Mr. M—re observed, “to sound a little flat.” Perhaps even Mr. S—th—y’s powers had not quite done justice to it; for, though a promising musician, he had taken up this instrument rather late in life; nor had his former practice been such as to afford him much facility in the attainment of execution upon it. This, at least, was little M—re’s account, repeated, with divers significant shrugs and half nods to a listening circle. He concluded by saying, “he would have advised the L—te to have kept to that ancient scripture instrument, the sackbut.” Mr. S—th—y however concluded, in the midst of great plaudits, and after he had finished, the amusement ran still higher. What could equal my astonishment, when I beheld Mr. C—le—dge, after an

eloquent disquisition on the powers of “this novel, but admirable and simple instrument,” sit down to play a Phantasia, with a skewer upon a gridiron, which he called “the dulcimer of nature.” Who would have dreamed of producing music from such a thing? Yet C—le—dge did so. The applause was immense—L—d B—n clapped immoderately; and even Mr. J—ff—y, ^{e—re} who was in the front of the gallery, loudly called, “encore,” in his odd tone, between jest and earnest. But this extraordinary exhibition was not the only display of Mr. C—le—dge’s singular genius. He favoured us with a specimen of his manner of playing the Eolian harp, which he did by breathing into it. Nay, for the gratification of the company, he thus played himself to sleep, and produced a most capital bass accompaniment by snoring. When he awaked, which he did in about ten minutes, he proceeded to maintain that “a hair and cinder” was one of the finest instruments that human wit ever invented; and to prove this, played a rhapsody upon it with no small effect. After the applause had subsided, he informed us, however, in a rather transcendental tone, that the cinder came from a subterraneous fire in Abyssinia, and the hair from the tail of a black horse with green eyes, of a mysterious breed, preserved by a certain German baron, a friend of his, and a descendant of Dr. Faustus, on his domain in the Harts mountains; a piece of information which seemed to excite as much merriment as wonder in some of his hearers.

After Mr. C—le—dge, Mr. M—re was universally called upon, who, as soon as he had recovered from his laughing, played us an exquisite old Irish air on the flute, with a pathos that brought the tears into my old eyes. He then attempted a grand Turkish march, with the aid of Turkish bells, which he jingled as an accompaniment; this, however, by no means accorded well with the genius of his instrument. So, suddenly laying down his flute, he seized a dancing master’s kit, which had belonged to the famous Bath Guide, Anstey, on which he rattled off a humorous divertimento with infinite spirit. Elated with the success of this piece of gayety, he produced a mail coach horn, and proceeded to amuse the audience with a burlesque of Mr. S—th—y’s grand trumpet flourish, in which he at last got so personal as to raise a terrible tumult in the gallery. Some groaned, some applauded, some hissed, some catcalled, and some roared “go on.” Mr. J—ff—y, who took his part, had

like to have got to loggerheads with our friend Mr. Bl—k—d, who was sitting next him. There was no saying how matters might have ended, had not ensign Odoher-ty, who had chosen to pack himself in a snug corner of the gallery, luckily hit upon the expedient of volunteering "the Humours of Glen," through a pocket comb, in a most stentorian voice, accompanied by himself, with a pewter pot and two tobacco pipes, by way of kettle drum, which at length drowned the clamour. But when the ensign proceeded with a thumb on each side of his mouth, and a finger on each nostril, in order to produce the swells and falls like a pedal, to whistle a Polonoise, (which he called his "Pullynose,") with original variations—good humour was completely restored. L—d St—gf—d finally mollified every body, by breathing some Portuguese airs, with much sweetness, through a third flute. I observed by the way, that his L—dsh—p played with a "mouth piece"—which, somebody told me, he had found amongst the remains of Camoëns, when in those parts. In emulation, I presume, of L—ds B—n and St—gf—d, L—d T—w next essayed; but whether some mischievous wag had greased his fiddlestick, or how it happened I cannot tell, but he produced only some uncouth noises, that hardly amounted to tones; so that the ensign, who now took Mr. M—re's place as joker, recommended him to the barrel organ on the stairhead. P—cy B—she Sh—ll—y succeeded better in out B—ning B—n; for, with a trombone, he horrified us with some of the most terrific passages I ever heard. They became, at last, perfectly disagreeable.

The next performer to my great delight, was Sir W—r S—t. He blew a clarionet; and whether the mood was "Marcia," "Fieramente," or "Pastorale," this fine bold natural player made all ring again. He concluded with a most spirited reveille on the patent bugle. I could not help remarking the strong hankering that sir W—r seemed to have after a pair of huge old bagpipes, which had last belonged to Allen Ramsay, but which now lay dusty and neglected. Many a joke was launched at this unfortunate instrument. M—re called it, slyly, "a green bag—and of the worst sort;" and C—le—dge, a "doodle sack," which he said was "the German name, and, like all other German names, highly expressive." Sir W—r stood stoutly up for them; and proved, by some Roman sculptures, the venerable date and good estimation of the instrument. In fine, after regretting the ab-

sence of A—l—n C—gh—m, who, he said, would play them better than any man in Scotland, he called upon Mr. H—g, the Ettrick Shepherd, to rub up his old craft, and give them a *lilt*; which he did in a style that set little M—re a dancing, and drew a flood of tears down C—le—dge's cheeks. After Mr. H—g had laid down the bagpipes, he pulled out a pandean pipe, and played some strains of extraordinary power and execution, as wild and resonant as if they had been echoed by a hundred hills. They were only exceeded in fancy by Mr. W—n, who, on the hautboy, breathed a lay so soft and imaginative, that I never heard the like. It was the very moonlight of sound. He suddenly passed into a tone of terror, sometimes amounting almost to a scream, mingled with snatches of plaintive lamentation. It reminded me forcibly of the massacre of Glencoe. I took the liberty of asking Mr. W—n if he played it? He said he did not. On which I begged to recommend to him Frazier's highland tunes, amongst which that extraordinary air is to be found, and made bold to assure him, that his hautboy would make more of it than all the other instruments put together; at which he smiled, and shook his head.

We were interrupted by a wonderfully striking, expressive, and even sweet ditty, which, on turning round, I found to proceed from an elderly clerical looking personage, who was playing on the hurdy-gurdy. When I saw it was Mr. C—bbe, I was not surprised at the pleasure which even this monotonous, not to say vulgar, instrument afforded me. But what cannot genius do? It is reported, Mr. C—bbe has some thoughts of training a band of marrowbones and cleavers, and every body says it would be the finest thing that has been heard for a long time. Mr. W—n informed me, that the reverend gentleman sung a ballad to admiration, the which he has been known to accompany with his thumb on the great kitchen table, very successfully, by way of bass. Just as the word ballad was mentioned, a dispute fell out with Mr. C—bbe, Mr. S—th—y, Mr. C—le—dge, and Mr. W—dsw—th, whether "The Cobbler of Bucklersbury," "the Bloody Gardener," "Giles Scroggins' Ghost," or "the Babes of the Wood," was the most sublime piece. I thought Mr. C—bbe seemed to have the advantage.

Whilst this argument was going on, happening to turn my eyes towards the side of the room, I saw an old musical instrument or two, which I went and examined.

There was a violoncello which, Mr. W—n informed me, had once been Dryden's, and which he said, they were very shy of touching now-a-days. It was a strong formidable looking instrument. Next to it was a gigantic double bass, with a bow like that of Ulysses, which, it seems, used to be played upon by Dr. Young. Beside it stood an antiquated harp of great dimensions, on which was carved, EDMUND SPENSER; but the greatest curiosity of all, in my mind, was a unique, ebony, old English flute, as big as a blunderbuss, and, not very unlike one. It was the flute of Chaucer, and as Mr. W—n said, it had not been touched in the memory of man, the precise gamut was probably lost. I was contemplating this venerable old relic with profound attention, when I got a terrible start with the most hideous noise I ever heard in my life. This, upon examination, I found to come from Mr. F—tzg—d, who insisted upon treating the company with "God save the King" upon a Chinese gong. The din was so great that I can't say I made much tune out. It was no small relief to hear Mr. Cr—k—r play "Lord Wellington," with some variations for the fife. He also gave us the "Death of Nelson" very finely. Mr. R—g—rs then warbled a beautiful little "dolce" on the double flageolet; and Mr. Sp—nc—r, a madrigal on the French flageolet. Mr. M—tg—m—y played the "German Hymn" on a celestina, and Mr. Fr—re a most ingenious capriccio on the triangle.

These having ended, my attention was attracted by a rather conceited London looking gentleman, who was strumming, with some execution and a good deal of affection, on an old fashioned spinnet, or rather virginal; when he turned round I discovered him to be Mr. L—gh H—nt, who when the company congratulated him, informed us that his spinnet was of the true Italian make, and had probably belonged to Tasso. He had himself, however, been obliged to refit and add a good many strings. Upon some one doubting this pedigree, and saying that, after all, the extent of what was known with any certainty about the matter was, that the spinnet had been found in an old house in Little Britain, in the occupation of Mr. Peter Prigg, late eminent pawnbroker, deceased, to whose father it was pawned by an Italian toyman, I thought Mr. H—nt seemed more piqued than the occasion seemed to require. However, he soon recovered himself, and taking L—d B—n aside, with a jaunty and familiar air, held him by the button, and whis-

pered in his ear for some minutes, during which I overheard the words, "mere malice" and "political rancour," repeated once or twice. Mr. H—nt then introduced a young gentleman without a neckcloth, of the name of K—ts, who played a sort of Sapphic ode, on the metre dicolos petrastrophos, upon a lyre, which he said was exactly modelled after that given by ancient sculptors to Apollo. Nor was I displeased with the music, notwithstanding the eccentricity of the instrument. Indeed Mr. K—ts hardly had fair play. The lyre being of his own manufacture, and not put together in the most workmanlike manner, a string or two got loose during the performance, which marred the effect sadly. After him Mr. B—rr—y C—rnw—ll favoured us with a serenade on the Spanish guitar, and sung a madrigal of Shakspeare, set by the celebrated old composer, Bird, accompanying himself, and giving this ancient harmony great effect.

Our applauses were suddenly interrupted by a most extraordinary phenomenon. This was a young gentleman of the name of Sm—th, who professed to play after the manner of the famous Signior What-d'ye-call-em, upon ten instruments at once; which he did, to the admiration of all present. I never heard such thunders of applause and laughter; and when, like a full band all playing in concert—"sackbuts and psalteries,"—he struck up, and introduced as finale, the grotesque old ballad tune of "Jingling Geordie," I thought the house would have come down. What pleased me as much as any thing, was to see the most popular poets of the time, who were thus a sort of outdone, enjoy the joke, and clap, and vociferate as well as any of us.

This it would seem was the concluding performance, and I was still laughing and clapping my hands in ecstacy, when I found a circle round me, politely begging me to favour them with a stave or two. I was unluckily in high glee; and, oh! Mr. North, how I longed for my Northumberland small pipes, with ebony and silver drones, and ivory chanter! I felt as if I could have given them "Over the Border," or "the Peacock follows the Hen," with all the fire of Jamie Allan, or Fitzmaurice himself. As I had owned myself a musician, however, they insisted upon my playing something, and forced an instrument into my hands—but whether it was a flute, clarionet, pipe, or whistle, I am sure I cannot tell. One imagines, in a dream, that one can do every thing—so I put it to my

mouth, and produced some notes of what Pope says is "harmony not understood;" that is to say, discord.

Maugre the contortions of the countenances around me, I was still persevering, and getting from bad to worse, when suddenly a voice with a strong Scotch accent, and a tone of most irresistible humour, exclaimed, "Lord save our lugs—what a guse's thrapple." The whole assemblage burst out a laughing at this ejaculation of the shepherd, and I awoke in a cold sweat, with my tobacco pipe in both hands, like a flute, and the candle just expiring in the socket, at a quarter to one in the morning. I am, &c. &c. &c.

JOSIAH SHUFFLEBOTHAM.

Gowks-Hall, Northumberland,
Sept. 20th, A. D. 1820.

[*Blackwood's Ed. Mag.*

Effects of Excessive Punishment.

CHRISTIAN WOLF.

EXTRACT OF A TRUE STORY.—FROM THE GERMAN.

Christian Wolf was the son of an inn-keeper at Bielsdorf, who, after the death of his father, continued till his 20th year to assist his mother in the management of the house. The inn was a poor one, and Wolf had many idle hours. Even before he left school he was regarded as an idle loose lad; the girls complained of his rudeness, and the boys, when detected in any mischief, were sure to give up him as the ringleader. Nature had neglected his person. His figure was small and unpromising; his hair was of a coarse greasy black; his nose was flat; and his upper lip, originally too thick, and twisted aside by a kick from a horse, was such as to disgust the women, and furnish a perpetual subject of jesting to the men. The contempt showered upon his person was the first thing which wounded his pride, and turned a portion of his blood to gall.

He was resolved to gain what was every where denied him; his passions were strong enough; and he soon persuaded himself that he was in love. The girl he selected treated him coldly, and he had reason to fear that his rivals were happier than himself. Yet the maiden was poor; and what was refused to his vows might perhaps be granted to his gifts; but he was himself needy, and his vanity soon threw away the little he gained from his share in the profits of the Sun. Too idle and too ignorant to think of supporting his extravagance by speculation; too proud to descend from *Mine Host* into a plain pea-

sant, he saw only one way to escape from his difficulties—a way to which thousands before and after him have had recourse—theft. Bielsdorf is, as you know, situated on the edge of the forest; Wolf commenced deer-stealer, and poured the gains of his boldness into the lap of his mistress.

Among Hannah's lovers was one of the forester's men, Robert Horn. This man soon observed the advantage which Wolf had gained over her, by means of his presents, and set himself to detect the sources of so much liberality. He began to frequent the Sun; he drank there early and late; and sharpened as his eyes were both by jealousy and poverty, it was not long before he discovered whence all the money came. Not many months before this time a severe edict had been published against all trespassers on the forest laws. Horn was indefatigable in watching the secret motions of his rival, and at last he was so fortunate as to detect him in the very fact. Wolf was tried, and found guilty; and the fine which he paid in order to avoid the statutory punishment amounted to the sum total of his property.

Horn triumphed. His rival was driven from the field, for Hannah had no notion of a beggar for a lover. Wolf well knew his enemy, and he knew that this enemy was the happy possessor of his Hannah. Pride, jealousy, rage, were all in arms within him; hunger set the wide world before him, but passion and revenge held him fast at Bielsdorf. A second time he became a deer-stealer, and a second time, by the redoubled vigilance of Robert Horn, was he detected in the trespass. This time he experienced the full severity of the law; he had no money to pay a fine, and was sent straightway to the house of chastisement.

The year of punishment drew near its close, and found his passion increased by absence, his confidence buoyant under all the pressure of his calamities. The moment his freedom was given to him, he hastened to Bielsdorf, to throw himself at the feet of Hannah. He appears, and is avoided by every one. The force of necessity at last humbles his pride, and overcomes his delicacy. He begs from the wealthy of the place; he offers himself as a day labourer to the farmers, but they despise his slim figure, and do not stop for a moment to compare him with his sturdier competitors. He makes a last attempt. One situation is yet vacant—the last of honest occupations. He offers himself as herdsman of the swine upon the town's common; but even here he is re-

jected; no man will trust any thing to the jail-bird. Meeting with contempt from every eye, chased with scorn from one door to another, he becomes yet the third time a deer-stealer, and for the third time his unhappy star places him in the power of his enemy.

This double backsliding goes against him at the judgment-seat; for every judge can look into the book of the law, but few into the soul of the culprit. The forest edict requires an exemplary punishment, and Wolf is condemned to be branded on the back with the mark of the gallows, and to three years hard labour in the fortress.

This period also went by, and he once more dropt his chains; but he was no longer the same man that entered the fortress. Here began a new epoch in the life of Wolf. You shall guess the state of his mind from his own words to his confessor.

"I went into the fortress," said he, "an offender, but I came out of it a villain. I had still had something in the world that was dear to me, and my pride had not totally sunk under my shame. But here I was thrown into the company of three and twenty convicts; of these, two were murderers,* the rest were all notorious thieves and vagabonds. They jeered at me if I spoke of God; they taught me to utter blasphemies against the Redeemer. They sung songs whose atrocity at first horrified me, but which I, a shame-faced fool, soon learned to echo. No day passed over, wherein I did not hear the recital of some profligate life, the triumphant history of some rascal, the concoction of some audacious villainy. At first I avoided as much as I could these men, and their discourses. But my labour was hard and tyrannical, and in my hours of repose I could not bear to be left alone, without one face to look upon. The jailers had refused me the company of my dog, so I needed that of men, and for this I was obliged to pay the sacrifice of whatever good there remained within me. By degrees I grew accustomed to every thing; and in the last quarter of my confinement I surpassed even my teachers.

"From this time I thirsted after free-

dom, after revenge, with a burning thirst. All men had injured me, for all were better and happier than I. I gnashed my fetters with my teeth, when the glorious sun rose up above the battlements of my prison, for a wide prospect doubles the hell of du-rance. The free wind that whistled through the loop-holes of my turret, and the swallow that poised itself upon the grating of my window, seemed to be mocking me with the view of their liberty; and that rendered my misery more bitter. It was then that I vowed eternal glowing hatred to every thing that bears the image of man—and I have kept my vow.

"My first thought, after I was set at liberty, was once more my native town. I had no hope of happiness there, but I had the dear hope of revenge. My heart beat quick and high against my bosom, when I beheld, afar off, the spire arising from out the trees. It was no longer that innocent hearty expectation which preceded my first return. The recollection of all the misery, of all the persecution I had experienced there, aroused my faculties from a terrible dead slumber of sullenness, set all my wounds a bleeding, every nerve a jar-ring within me. I redoubled my pace—I longed to startle my enemies by the horror of my aspect—I thirsted after new contempts as much as I had ever shuddered at the old.

"The clocks were striking the hour of vespers as I reached the market-place. The crowd was rushing to the church door. I was immediately recognised; every man that knew me shrank from meeting me. Of old I had loved the little children, and even now, seeking in their innocence a refuge from the scorn of others, I threw a small piece of money to the first I saw. The boy stared at me for a moment, and then dashed the coin at my face. Had my blood boiled less furiously, I might have re-collected that I still wore my prison beard, and that that was enough to account for the terror of the infant. But my bad heart had blinded my reason, and tears, tears such as I had never wept, leaped down my cheeks.

"The child," said I to myself, half aloud, "knows not who I am, nor whence I came, and yet he avoids me like a beast of prey. Am I then marked upon the forehead like Cain, or have I ceased to be like a man, since all men spurn me?" The aversion of the child tortured me more than all my three years slavery, for I had done him good, and I could not accuse him of hating me.

* In some parts of Germany no man can suffer the last severity of the law, unless he confess his guilt. The clearest evidence is not received as an equivalent. Even murderers have right to this indulgence, if indeed (considering what they suffer in lieu of immediate death) indulgence it may be called.

"I sat down in a wood-yard over against the church ; what my wishes were I know not ; but I remember it was wormwood to my spirit, that none of my old acquaintances should have vouchsafed me a greeting—no, not one. When the yard was locked up, I unwillingly departed to seek a lodging ; in turning the corner of a street, I ran against my Hannah : ' Mine host of the Sun,' cried she, and opened her arms as if to embrace me—' You here again, my dear Wolf, God be thanked for your return !' Hunger and wretchedness were expressed in her scanty raiment ; a shameful disease had marred her countenance ; her whole appearance told me what a wretched creature she had become. I saw two or three dragoons laughing at her from a window, and turned my back with a laugh louder than theirs, upon the soldier's trull. It did me good to find that there was something yet lower in the scale of life than myself. I had never loved her.

" My mother was dead. My small house had been sold to pay my creditors. I asked nothing more. I drew near to no man. All the world fled from me like a pestilence, but I had at last forgotten shame. Formerly I hated the sight of men, because their contempt was unsufferable to me. Now I threw myself in the way, and found a savage delight in scattering horror around me. I had nothing more to lose, why then should I conceal myself ? Men expected no good from me, why should they have any ? I was made to bear the punishment of sins I had never committed. My infamy was a capital, the interest of which was not easy to be exhausted.

" The whole earth was before me ; in some remote province I might perhaps have sustained the character of an honest man, but I had lost the desire of being, nay, even of seeming such. Contempt and shame had taken from me even this last relic of myself,—my resource, now that I had no honour, was to learn to do without it. Had my vanity and pride survived my infamy, I must have died by my own hand.

" What was I to do, I myself knew not. I was determined, however, to do evil ; of so much I have some dark recollection. I was resolved to see the worst of my destiny. The laws, said I to myself, are benefits to the world, it is fit that I should offend them ; formerly I had sinned from levity and necessity, but I now sinned from free choice, and for my pleasure.

" My first step was to the woods. The chase had by degrees become to me as a passion ; I thirsted, like a lover, after thick

brakes and headlong leaps, and the mad delight of rushing along the bare earth beneath the pines. Besides, I must live. But these were not all. I hated the prince who had published the forest edict, and I believed, that in injuring him, I should only exercise my natural right of retaliation. The chance of being taken no longer troubled me, for now I had a bullet for my discoverer, and I well knew the certainty of my aim. I slew every animal that came near me, the greater part of them rotted where they died ; for I neither had the power, nor the wish, to sell more than a few of them beyond the barriers. Myself lived wretchedly ; except on powder and shot I expended nothing. My devastations were dreadful, but no suspicion pursued me. My appearance was too poor to excite any, and my name had long since been forgotten.

" This life continued for several months. One morning, according to my custom, I had pursued a stag for many miles through the wood. For two hours I had in vain exerted every nerve, and at last I had begun to despair of my booty, when all at once, I perceived the stately animal exactly at the proper distance for my gun,—my finger was already on the trigger, when, of a sudden, my eye was caught with the appearance of a hat, lying a few paces before me on the ground. I looked more closely, and perceived the huntsman, Robert Horn, lurking behind a massy oak, and taking deliberate aim at the very stag I had been pursuing—at the sight a deadly coldness crept through my limbs. Here was the man I hated above all living things ; here he was and within reach of my bullet. At this moment it seemed to me as if the whole world were at the muzzle of my piece, as if the wrath and hatred of a thousand lives were all quivering in the finger that should give the murderous pressure. A dark, fearful, unseen hand was upon me ; the finger of my destiny pointed irrevocably to the black moment. My arm shook as if with an ague, while I lifted my gun—my teeth chattered—my breath stood motionless in my lungs. For a minute the barrel hung uncertain between the man and the stag—a minute—and another—and yet one more. Conscience and revenge struggled fiercely within me, but the demon triumphed, and the huntsman fell dead upon the ground.

" My courage fell with him—*Murderer !*—I stammered the word slowly. The wood was silent as a church-yard, distinctly did I hear it—*Murderer !*—As I drew

near, the man yielded up his spirit. Long stood I speechless by the corpse; at last I forced a wild laugh, and cried 'no more tales from the wood now, my friend!' I drew him into the thicket with his face upwards! The eyes stood stiff, and staring upon me. I was serious enough, and silent too. The feeling of solitude began to press grievously upon my soul.

"Up till this time I had been accustomed to rail at the over severity of my destiny; now I had done something which was not yet punished. An hour before, no man could have persuaded me that there existed a being more wretched than myself. Now I began to envy myself for what even then I had been.

"The idea of God's justice never came into my mind; but I remember a bewildered vision of ropes, and swords, and the dying agonies of a child-murderess, which I had witnessed when a boy. A certain dim and fearful idea lay upon my thoughts that my life was forfeit. I cannot recollect every thing. I wished that Horn were yet alive. I forced myself to call up all the evil the dead man had done when in life, but my memory was sadly gone. Scarcely could I recollect one of all those thousand circumstances, which a quarter of an hour before had been suffered to blow my wrath into phrenzy. I could not conceive how or why I had become a murderer.

"I was still standing beside the corpse,—I might have stood there for ever,—when I heard the crack of a whip, and the creaking of a fruit-wagon passing through the wood. The spot where I had done the deed was scarcely a hundred yards from the great path. I must look to my safety.

"I bounded like a wild deer into the depths of the wood; but while I was in my race, it struck me that the deceased used to have a watch. In order to pass the barriers I had need of money, and yet scarcely could I muster up courage to approach the place of blood. Then I thought for a moment of the devil, and, I believe, confusedly, of the omnipresence of God. I called up all my boldness, and strode towards the spot, resolved to dare earth and hell to the combat. I found what I had expected, and a dollar or two besides, in a green silk purse. At first I took all, but a sudden thought seized me. It was neither that I feared, nor that I was ashamed to add another crime to murder. Nevertheless, so it was, I threw back the watch and half the silver. I wished to consider myself as the personal enemy, not as the robber of the slain.

"Again I rushed towards the depths of the forest. I knew that the wood extended for four German miles* northwards, and there bordered upon the frontier. Till the sun was high in heaven I ran on breathless. The swiftness of my flight had weakened the force of my conscience, but the moment I laid myself down upon the grass, it awoke in all its vigour. A thousand dismal forms floated before my eyes; a thousand knives of despair and agony were in my breast. Between a life of restless fear, and a violent death, the alternative was fearful, but choose I must. I had not the heart to leave the world by self-murder, yet scarcely could I bear the idea of remaining in it. Hesitating between the certain miseries of life, and the untried terrors of eternity alike unwilling to live and to die, the sixth hour of my flight passed over my head—an hour full of wretchedness, such as no man can utter, such as God himself in mercy will spare to me—even to me, upon the scaffold.

Port Folio.]

Adjournment of the Massachusetts Convention.

Boston, Jan. 10.

Last evening, about 8 o'clock, the convention of this state was adjourned without day. The evening scene was most solemnly impressive. The galleries and avenues of the hall were crowded, and the attendance of the members full. The report of the committee on the amendments was made about 6 o'clock: during the two hours occupied in their reading and adoption, the utmost silence prevailed. The amendments were fourteen in number, each a separate article. They were all first read by the secretary, and some verbal amendments adopted. They were then read separately, and on each the question was thus put by the president: "Shall this amendment be submitted to the people for their adoption and ratification? On most of the amendments the votes were unanimous: and on each of the residue there were only one or two, and at most six dissentients, excepting on the amendment respecting Harvard college, on which a division was called, and the numbers were for passing the amendment 197, against it 61. After all the amendments had been adopted, the Rev. Mr. Foster, of Littleton, on the invitation of the president, addressed the throne of grace, in a fervent, impressive and pertinent ascription of praise; and on motion

* Nearly twenty, English measure.

of general Varnum, the convention was adjourned, amidst the cordial and mutual congratulations of the delegates, on the auspicious close of their labours.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At an annual meeting of the Philadelphia Society for the promotion of Agriculture, held January 16th, 1821, the following gentlemen were duly elected officers for the ensuing year:

President—Richard Peters.

Vice Presidents—William Tilghman, George Logan, James Mease, Robert Coleman.

Treasurer—Edward Burd.

Secretary—Roberts Vaux.

Assistant Secretary—Richard Wistar, jr.

Corresponding Committee—Richard Peters, William Tilghman, Zaccheus Collins, John Vaughan, James Mease.

Curators—Isaac C. Jones, James M. Broome, Reuben Haines, Stephen Duncan, Joseph R. Paxson.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES.

At a meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences, held on the 26th of December last, the following members were elected to the several offices, for the ensuing year:

President—William M'Clure.

Vice-presidents—Zaccheus Collins, G. Ord.

Corresponding Sec'y—Reuben Haines.

Recording Secretary—Franklin Bache, M. D.

Treasurer—James Gilliams.

Librarian—Jacob Peirce.

Curators—Thomas M'Euen, jr. J. P. Wetherill, C. A. Le Sueur, Thomas Say.

Auditors—Joseph Dulles, J. Lea, Caleb Carmalt.

Commodore Rodgers has invented a machine to raise ships of the line and other vessels from the water, for the purpose of repairing; the cost would be about \$40,000, and supersedes the necessity of dry docks; which cost not less than \$700,000.

ANECDOTES OF TRANSLATIONS.

A French poet having lately undertaken the arduous task of translating Shakspeare into his own language, was much puzzled with the lines in Henry IV.

"E'en such a man; so faint, so spiritless,
So dull, so dead, so wo begone."

The former epithets he got through pretty well; but at length concluded the verse with "Si triste allez vous en."

Another of those translators rendered—"Out, out, brief candle," "Sortez, sortez, courte chandelle."

Decision on the Patent Coffin Case.—The important and novel proceedings, which had been argued at great length on a former day, came on for judgment before sir William Scott in the consistory court, on Wednesday. It was a suit brought by John Gilbert, parishioner of St. Andrew, Holborn, against John Basward and Wm. Boyer, church warden, for the offence of obstructing the interment of his wife, Mary Gilbert. After stating in substance the criminal articles, and the defensive allegation, the learned judge proceeded in a long and elaborate speech to deliver the opinion of the court, on the question of right which had been submitted for its decision. Sir William first took a view of the different modes of disposing of the dead, recorded in history, and then came to consider the argument relative to particular coffins. The argument that rests the right of admission for particular coffins upon the naked right of the parishioner to be buried in his church yard, seemed, the learned judge observed, rather to stop short of what is requisite to be proved, the right of being buried in a large chest or trunk of any material, metallic or other, that his executors think fit. With respect to the difference in the duration of the coffins of iron, it was, said the learned judge, the fault of the party complaint, if being left by him to judge of this matter, without sufficient information, I judge amiss in holding that coffins of iron are much more, perhaps double more durable than those of wood. The learned judge then went on to show that all contrivances that, whether intentionally or not, prolong the time of dissolution beyond the period at which common local usage had fixed it, is an act of injustice, unless compensated in some way or other. If, therefore, these iron coffins are to bring additional charges upon parishes, they ought to bring with them, a proportionate compensation; upon all common principles of estimated value, one must pay for the longer lease which you usually take of the ground. At the same time parishes are not left to carve for themselves in imposing rates; they are submit-

ted to the examination of the ecclesiastical magistrate, the ordinary. "It remains only," added the learned judge, "that I should direct the parish to exhibit a table of burial fees for the consideration of the ordinary. I would recommend, in the mean time, that the body should be committed to the grave without prejudice to the present questions, or to the rights of the parish. No prohibitory resolutions existed at the time of the death; and I willingly lay hold of that circumstance to recommend a measure of peace to the living and to the dead. I shall admit affidavits to be brought in on both sides, before the table of burial fees."

[London paper.]

Important and Useful Invention.

From the Liverpool Mercury, of November 3.

MARINE LIFE PRESERVERS.

In the first volume of the Liverpool Mer-

cury, we published, with an engraving, an easy method of speedily converting any ordinary boat into an infallible life boat, by means of empty casks. Important as the hint unquestionably is, we are still more pleased with the simple plan which we have now the satisfaction to lay before the public. A ship's boat may be stove in, or lost; but the apparatus for constructing the life raft here proposed, is always at hand.

Annexed is the plan of a raft, to save passengers and sailors when a ship is wrecked, which has been approved by the Royal Humane Society. A deputation also from the Trinity House, expressed their approbation, and voted the inventor an honorary prize; which he ordered to be paid to the Missionary Society, and received a letter from the late Dr. Haweis acknowledging the receipt thereof.



EXPLANATION.

A A is an oak plank, nine or ten feet long, two or three inches thick, and six or eight inches broad. If a deal plank, it would be advisable to bind some iron or lead with cordage, to the *bottom* of the plank, near the ends, or bags of silver or gold, or any other valuable heavy articles, which would act as ballast, and keep the men upright, say 40 to 50 pounds weight each barrel; but long bags made with sail cloth, and filled with sand or coals, would be less liable to shift or get loose. B B are two empty barrels, or water casks, such as would contain about 36 gallons each—if larger the better. Two wine pipes or butts, would do well on 12 or 14 feet plank, and would carry all the men that could sit on it; these barrels, pipes or butts, should not have any article put into them that is heavy, but only very light articles, as papers, &c. for the more buoyant the casks are, so much the better. These barrels must be water proof, closely bunged up.

C C C C is a small rope, bound two or three times round on each side the bulge of the cask; and four small notches should be cut on each side the plank, to prevent the casks shifting off the planks. D D is a rope made fast from C C to C C, on each side, to prevent the men from being washed off the plank, fixed under their arms, so as to leave sufficient room for them to row with their hands. E E E E, men sitting on the plank between the ropes. If the casks are large, the ropes D D should be drawn closer, with small cordage, close to the ends of the casks, and one in the middle, so as to have just room for the men to sit between the ropes D D, and row with their hands.

A barrel containing 36 gallons will carry 300 pounds weight without sinking. Forty or fifty pounds will keep any man's head above water; there is no fear of overloading. I consider that water casks, ropes, and planks, are articles that very few ships sail without, and having the means in their own power, the mariners are more likely

to escape; and as shipwrecks more frequently happen in the night, and at a distance from any large town, assistance from land must be very uncertain.

The only objection the inventor ever heard to this plan, is, that the sailors would be likely to leave the ship too soon; but this is not probable, for they would not readily leave the ship, if there were any chance of saving her; besides, it would be safer for the men to sit on the planks till the ship goes down.

R. C.

Bixley, near Norwich.

Harrisburgh, Jan. 13.

Practice of the Law.—Mr. Mann read in his place a supplement to the act of 1722 relative to the practice of the law, the object of which is to allow any citizen, upon examination, and being found duly qualified, to practise law in any of the state courts, without the necessity either of having studied a particular length of time, or of paying a fee for instruction.

MARRIED.

On the 10th instant, by the Rev. Dr. Wilson, Mr. Benjamin W. Richards, to Miss Sarah Ann Lippincott, daughter of Joshua Lippincott, esq. all of this city.

On the 11th instant, by the Right Rev. Bishop White, Mr. Charles S. Smith, to Miss Maria Wilhelmina, daughter of the late Charles. G. Paleske, esq.

On the 11th instant, by the Rev. Dr. Hurley, Mr. John C. Ravesies, of Bordeaux, to Miss Mary Josephine Soullier, daughter of John M. Soullier, esq. of this city.

On the 11th instant, by the Right Rev. Bishop White, Mr. Charles Norris, to Dorothea M. daughter of Louis Clapier, esq. all of this city.

DIED.

On the 14th instant, in this city, Charles Hall, esq. of Sunbury, Penn.

On the 15th instant, Adam Konigmacher, aged 44 years.

Record.

ON THE SLAVE TRADE.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

(Continued from p. 29.)

Extract of a Letter from the Secretary of State to Messrs. Gallatin and Rush, dated Department of State, Nov. 2, 1818.

The President desires that you would make known to the British government, his sensibility to the friendly spirit of confidence with which the treaties lately contracted by Great Britain with Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands, and

the legislative measures of parliament, founded upon them, have been communicated to this government, and the invitation to the United States to join in the same or similar arrangements has been given. He wishes you also to give the strongest assurances that the solicitude of the United States for the accomplishment of the common object, the total and final abolition of that odious traffic, continues with all the earnestness which has so long and so steadily distinguished the course of their policy in relation to it. As an evidence of this earnestness, he requests you to communicate to them a copy of the act of Congress of the last session, in addition to the act of 1807, to prohibit the importation of slaves into the United States—(Acts of the last session, chap. 86, page 81,) and to declare the readiness of this government, within their constitutional powers, to adopt any further measures, which experience may prove to be necessary for the purpose of attaining so desirable an end.

But you will observe that, in examining the provisions of the treaties communicated by lord Castlereagh, all their essential articles appeared to be of a character not adapted to the institutions or to the circumstances of the United States.

The power agreed to be reciprocally given to the officers of the ships of war of either party to enter, search, capture, and carry into port for adjudication, the merchant vessels of the other, however qualified and restricted, is most essentially connected with the institution by each treaty of two mixed courts, one of which to reside in the external or colonial possessions of each of the two parties respectively. This part of the system is indispensable to give it that character of reciprocity, without which, the right granted to the armed ships of one nation to search the merchant vessels of another, would be rather a mark of vassalage than of independence. But to this part of the system, the United States, having no colonies, either on the coast of Africa, or in the West Indies, cannot give effect.

You will add, that, by the constitution of the United States, it is provided, the judiciary power of the United States, shall be vested in a supreme court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may, from time to time, ordain and establish. It provides that the judges of these courts shall hold their offices during good behaviour; and that they shall be removable by impeachment and conviction of crimes or misdemeanors. There may be some doubt whether the power of the government of the United States is competent to institute a court for carrying into execution their penal statutes, beyond the territories of the United States—a court consisting partly of foreign judges, not amenable to impeachment for corruption, and deciding upon statutes of the United States without appeal.

That the disposal of the negroes, found on board the slave-trading vessels, which might be condemned by the sentence of these mixed courts, cannot be carried into effect by the United States—for, if the slaves of a vessel condemned by the mixed court should be delivered over to the government of the United States as freemen, they could not, but by their own con-

sent, be employed as servants or free labourers. The condition of the blacks being, in this union, regulated by the municipal laws of the several states, the government of the United States can neither guaranty their liberty in the states where they could only be received as slaves, nor control them in the states where they would be recognised as free.

That the admission of a right in the officers of foreign ships of war to enter and search the vessels of the United States, in time of peace, under any circumstances whatever, would meet with universal repugnance in the public opinion of this country; that there would be no prospect of a ratification, by advice and consent of the Senate, to any stipulation of that nature; that the search by foreign officers, even in time of war, is so obnoxious to the feelings and recollections of this country, that nothing could reconcile them to the extension of it, however qualified or restricted, to a time of peace; and, it would be viewed in a still more aggravated light, if, as in the treaty with the Netherlands, connected with a formal admission that vessels under convoy of ships of war of their own nation, should be liable to search by the ships of war of another.

You will therefore express the regret of the President that the stipulations in the treaty communicated by lord Castlereagh, are of a character to which the peculiar situation and institutions of the United States, do not permit them to accede. The constitutional objection may be the more readily understood by the British cabinet, if they are reminded that it was an obstacle proceeding from the same principle which prevented Great Britain from becoming, formally, a party to the holy alliance. Neither can they be at a loss to perceive the embarrassment under which we should be placed by receiving cargoes of African negroes, and be bound at once to guaranty their liberty, and to employ them as servants. Whether they will be as ready to enter into our feelings with regard to the search by foreign navy lieutenants, of vessels under convoy of our own navy commanders, is perhaps of no material importance. The other reasons are presumed to be amply sufficient to convince them that the motives for declining this overture, are compatible with an earnest wish that measures concerted by these treaties may prove successful in extirpating that root of numberless evils, the traffic in human blood, and with the determination to co-operate to the utmost extent of our powers, in this great vindication of the sacred rights of humanity.

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Copy of a Letter from Mr. Rush to Lord Castlereagh, dated

London, Dec. 21, 1818.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from the United States, has the honour to present his compliments to lord Castlereagh.

In the note of the 23d of June, which the undersigned had the honour to address to his lordship, in answer to his lordship's communication of the 20th of the same month, relative to the slave trade, the undersigned had great pleasure in giving the assurance that he would

transmit a copy of that communication to his government, together with the documents which accompanied it, being copies of treaties entered into on the part of Great Britain, with Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands, for the more complete abolition of the odious traffic in slaves. He accordingly lost no time in fulfilling that duty, and has the honour to inform his lordship of the instructions with which he has been furnished by his government in reply.

He has been distinctly commanded, in the first place, to make known the sensibility of the President to the friendly spirit of confidence in which these treaties, and the legislative measures of parliament founded upon them, have been communicated to the United States, and to the invitation which has been given that they would join in the same or similar arrangements, the more effectually to accomplish the beneficent object to which they look. He is further commanded to give the strongest assurances that the solicitude of the United States for the universal extirpation of this traffic continues with all the earnestness which has so long and steadily distinguished the course of their policy in relation to it. Of their general prohibitory law of 1807, it is unnecessary that the undersigned should speak, his lordship being already apprised of its provisions; amongst which the authority to employ the national force, as auxiliary to its execution, will not have escaped attention. But he has it in charge to make known, as a pledge of their unremitting and active desire in the cause of abolition, that, so lately as the month of April last, another act of Congress was passed, by which not only are the citizens and vessels of the United States interdicted from carrying on, or being in any way engaged in, the trade, but in which, also, the best precautions that legislative enactments can devise, or their penalties enforce, are raised up against the introduction into their territories of slaves from abroad, under whatever pretext attempted; and especially from dominions which lie more immediately in their neighbourhood. A copy of this act is herewith enclosed for the more particular information of his lordship. That peculiarity in the eighth section which throws upon a defendant the labour of proof as the condition of acquittal, the undersigned persuades himself will be regarded as signally manifesting an anxiety to suppress the hateful offence, departing as it does from the analogy of criminal jurisprudence which so generally requires the independent and positive establishment of guilt as the first step in every public prosecution. To measures of such a character, thus early adopted and sedulously pursued, the undersigned is further commanded to say, that the government of the United States, acting within the pale of its constitutional powers, will always be ready to superadd any others that experience may prove to be necessary for attaining the desirable end in view.

But, on examining the provisions of the treaties, which your lordship honoured the undersigned by communicating, it has appeared to the President that their essential articles are of a character not adapted to the circumstances or to the institutions of the United States.

The powers agreed to be given to the ships of war of either party to search, capture, and carry

into port for adjudication, the merchant vessels of the other, however qualified, is connected with the establishment, by each treaty, of two mixed courts, one of which is to have its seat in the colonial possessions of the parties respectively. The institution of such tribunals is necessarily regarded as fundamental to the whole arrangement, whilst their peculiar structure is doubtless intended, and would seem to be indispensable, towards imparting to it a just reciprocity. But to this part of the system, the United States, having no colonies upon the coast of Africa, in the West Indies, or elsewhere, cannot give effect.

Moreover, the powers of government in the United States, whilst they can only be exercised within the grants, are also subject to the restrictions of the federal constitution. By the latter instrument, all judicial power is to be vested in a supreme court, and in such other inferior courts as Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. It further provides, that the judges of these courts shall hold their offices during good behaviour, and be removable on impeachment and conviction of crimes and misdemeanors. There are serious doubts whether obeying the spirit of these injunctions, the government of the United States would be competent to appear as a party to the institution of a court for carrying into execution their penal statutes in places out of their own territory—a court consisting partly of foreign judges not liable to impeachment under the authority of the United States, and deciding upon their statutes without appeal.

Again. Obstacles would exist towards giving validity to the disposal of the negroes found on board the slave trading vessels, condemned by the sentence of the mixed courts. If they should be delivered over to the government of the United States as freemen, they could not, but by their own consent, be employed as servants or free labourers. The condition of negroes and other people of colour in the United States being regulated by the municipal laws of the separate states, the government of the former could neither guaranty their liberty in the states, where they could only be received as slaves, nor control them in the states where they would be recognised as free. The provisions of the fifth section of the act of Congress, which the undersigned has the honour to enclose, will be seen to point to this obstacle, and may be taken as still further explanatory of its nature.

These are some of the principal reasons which arrest the assent of the President to the very frank and friendly overture contained in your lordship's communication. Having their foundation in constitutional impediments, the government of his Britannic majesty will know how to appreciate their force. It will be seen how compatible they are with the most earnest wishes on the part of the United States that the measures concerted by these treaties may bring about the total downfall of the traffic in human blood; and with their determination to co-operate, to the utmost extent of their constitutional power, towards this great consummation so imperiously due at the hands of all nations to the past wrongs and sufferings of Africa.

The undersigned prays lord Castlereagh to accept the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

RICHARD RUSH.

Mr. Rush to the Secretary of State.—Extract.

London, March 5, 1819.

Lord Castlereagh sent me a few days ago the enclosed printed parliamentary document. It will be found to comprise a variety of interesting papers relating to the slave trade, exhibiting all that has lately been done by the powers of Europe upon the subject, and the actual and precise footing upon which it now stands. Its receipt was the first notice that I had in any shape of the fact of the publication, or of there being any intention to publish my notes to this government of the 23d of June and 21st of December. It will be seen, from one of the papers, how unequivocal and animated has been the refusal of France to allow her vessels to be boarded and searched at sea for slaves. Now there is nothing more evident, as may be collected from my despatch of the 15th of last April, than that this is a result which, at that period, lord Castlereagh did not anticipate. Nevertheless, it would seem, from a passage in his lordship's letter to lord Bathurst from Paris, dated the 10th of December, the last paper in the collection, and written subsequently to all the conferences and declarations at Aix la Chapelle, that he still indulges a sanguine expectation, that "the French government may be brought, at no distant period, to unite their *naval* exertions with those of the other allied powers, for the suppression of the trade." Some of the evidence furnished by the African Society in London, and from Sierra Leone, as to the extent in which the trade continues to be unlawfully carried on, may probably command attention in the United States.

What communications may, at any former periods have been made to the government of the United States, by the governments of France, Russia, or Prussia, through any channel, either in Europe or at Washington, of their intentions in regard to this naval combination for putting down the traffic, I am not informed. It is impossible to refrain from remarking, that, to me, they remained utterly unknown, until I saw them recorded in these pages of a document given to the world by England.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Rush to the Secretary of State, dated London, Nov. 10, 1819.

On the 7th of this month I received a note from lord Castlereagh, requesting that I would call upon him at his house on the 9th. I waited upon him at the time appointed.

"His object, he stated, was to say to me, that the government of Great Britain had lost none of its anxiety to see produced among nations, more universal and effective co-operation than had yet been witnessed, for the total abolition of the slave trade. It was still carried on, he observed, to an extent that was afflicting. In some respects, as the evidence collected by the African Institution and from other sources, would show, the voyages were marked by more than all their original outrages upon humanity. It was the intention of the Prince Regent again

to invite the United States to negotiate upon the subject, in the hope, notwithstanding what had heretofore passed, that some practicable mode might still be adopted by which they could consent to become party to the association for finally extirpating the traffic. That I was aware of the addresses which had been presented to his royal highness by both houses of parliament at the close of the last session, for the renewal of negotiations with the governments both of the United States and France, to effectuate this most desirable end. That it was his lordship's design to enclose to me, at an early day, copies of these addresses, as a foundation upon which to build in the new endeavour which this government was now prepared to make. In doing so, his object, however, merely would be, that of bespeaking my interposition towards making known to the President the measures contemplated; since it was intended that all further negotiation should be carried on at Washington. This he thought indispensable, after the past failure, as it could not be supposed that I was prepared with any new authority or instructions to resume it upon this side of the water. That the new minister, Mr. Canning, who, his lordship now informed me, was to sail as early in the spring as practicable, would accordingly have the whole subject in charge, and be prepared to enter upon it on his arrival, under ardent hopes for an auspicious termination of his labours. I replied that I would, in the same spirit as before, make known the communication to my government. I adverted again to the obstacles which the constitution of the United States interposed to the project; and also to the peculiar and extreme caution with which the momentous question of search mingled with it would be looked at throughout every part of the country. I said, that these reasons superadded themselves to that derived from the failure of the attempt already made here, to give great propriety, as it struck me, to a change of the scene of negotiation. That if any thing could be done, it could be done only, or at all events be done best, at Washington. That the President, I was sure, continued to possess all his original sensibility to the importance of the subject, and would entertain any proposals, differently modified, that were submitted with the same anxious dispositions as ever, for a favourable result to their objects.

The conversation went off by reference on my part to the holy league. I remarked, that, as the government of Great Britain had declared, that the principles of that league had its entire approbation, although it had not formally become a party to it, so the United States, acting within their constitutional limits, had long and earnestly striven, and would, it might be confidently affirmed, though restrained from going hand in hand with Europe, always continue their efforts in the same beneficent spirit, for putting down totally the slave trade. It is well known that the earl of Liverpool, not longer ago than last February, described in the House of Peers, the character of this league, as well as the insurmountable impediment which held back this country from signing it. He distinctly declared that, as the signatures were all in the autograph of the respective sovereigns, England, in point of form, could never accede

to it; for it was not consistent with her constitution that the Prince Regent should himself sign such an instrument, without the intervention of a responsible minister. Upon my reminding lord Castlereagh of this declaration, which I was the more ready to do since it was your wish that the illustration should be brought into view, he candidly admitted, that we too, doubtless, had our constitutional embarrassments, but he nevertheless hoped, that such, and all others, might, by proper modifications of the plan, be overcome.

Mr. Canning to the Secretary of State.

The undersigned, his Britannic majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, took an early opportunity after his arrival in the city of Washington, to inform Mr. Adams, that, in pursuance of lord Castlereagh's note, dated the 11th November, 1819, communicating to Mr. Rush an address of both houses of parliament, relating to the African slave trade, he was instructed to bring that important question again under the consideration of the American government, in the hope of being found practicable so to combine the preventive measures of the two countries, as materially to accelerate the total extinction of an evil, which both have long united in condemning and opposing.

Mr. Adams will find no difficulty in recollecting the several conversations which have passed between him and the undersigned on this subject; he will remember that the last of those conversations, which took place towards the close of October, was terminated with an assurance on his part, that the proposals of the English government would be taken into full deliberation, as soon after the meeting of Congress as the state of public business would allow, with a sincere disposition to remove any impediments which appeared at first sight to stand in the way of their acceptance.

An interval of considerable length having elapsed since that period, the undersigned is persuaded that Mr. Adams will shortly be at liberty to communicate the definitive sentiments of his government on a subject which is of too deep, and too general an importance, not to engage the attention and benevolent feelings of the United States.

In this persuasion, the undersigned conceives it unnecessary, on the present occasion, to go over the various grounds which formed the matter of his late conversations with Mr. Adams.

Notwithstanding all that has been done on both sides of the Atlantic for the suppression of the African slave trade, it is notorious that an illicit commerce, attended with aggravated sufferings to its unhappy victims, is still carried on; and it is generally acknowledged that a combined system of maritime police can alone afford the means of putting it down with effect.

That concurrence of principle in the condemnation and prohibition of the slave trade, which has so honourably distinguished the parliament of Great Britain and the Congress of the United States, seems naturally and unavoidably to lead to a concert of measures between the two governments, the moment that such co-operation is recognised as necessary for the accomplishment of their mutual purpose. It can-

not be anticipated that either of the parties, discouraged by such difficulties as are inseparable from all human transactions of any magnitude, will be contented to acquiesce in the continuance of a practice so flagrantly immoral; especially at the present favourable period, when the slave trade is completely abolished to the north of the equator, and countenanced by Portugal alone to the south of that line.

Mr. Adams is fully acquainted with the particular measures recommended by his majesty's ministers as best calculated, in their opinion, to attain the object which both parties have in view; but he need not be reminded that the English government is too sincere in the pursuit of that common object, to press the adoption of its own proposals, however satisfactory in themselves, to the exclusion of any suggestions equally conducive to the same end, and more agreeable to the institutions or prevailing opinion of other nations.

The undersigned embraces this opportunity to offer Mr. Adams the assurance of his high consideration.

STRATFORD CANNING.

Washington Dec. 20, 1820.

The Secretary of State to Mr. Canning.

The Rt. Hon. Stratford Canning, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Great Britain.

Dept. of State, Washington, Dec. 30, 1820.

Sir—I have had the honour of receiving your note of the 20th instant, in reply to which, I am directed by the President of the United States to inform you that, conformably to the assurances given you in the conversation to which you refer, the proposals made by your government to the United States, inviting their accession to the arrangements contained in certain treaties with Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands, to which Great Britain is the reciprocal contracting party, have again been taken into the most serious deliberation of the President, with an anxious desire of contributing, to the utmost extent of the powers within the competency of this government, and by means compatible with its duties to the rights of its own citizens, and with the principles of its national-independence, to the effectual and final suppression of the African slave trade.

At an early period of the communications between the two governments upon this subject, the President, in manifesting his sensibility to the amicable spirit of confidence with which the measures, concerted between Great Britain and some of her European allies, had been made known to the United States, and to the free and candid offer of admitting the United States to a participation in these measures, had instructed the minister of the United States residing near your government to represent the difficulties, resulting as well from certain principles of international law, of the deepest and most painful interest to these United States, as from limitations of authority prescribed by the people of the United States to the legislative and executive depositaries of the national power, which placed him under the necessity of declining the proposal. It had been stated, that a compact giving the power to the naval offi-

cers of one nation to search the merchant vessels of another for offenders and offences against the laws of the latter, backed by a further power to seize and carry into a foreign port, and there subject to the decision of a tribunal composed of at least one half foreigners, irresponsible to the supreme corrective tribunal of this union, and not amenable to the control of impeachment for official misdemeanor, was an investment of power over the persons, property, and reputation, of the citizens of this country, not only unwarranted by any delegation of sovereign power to the national government, but so adverse to the elementary principles, and indispensable securities of individual rights, interwoven in all the political institutions of this country, that not even the most unqualified approbation of the ends to which this organization of authority was adapted, nor the most sincere and earnest wish to concur in every suitable expedient for their accomplishment, could reconcile it to the sentiments or the principles, of which, in the estimation of the people and government of the United States, no consideration whatsoever could justify the transgression.

In the several conferences which, since your arrival here, I have had the honour of holding with you, and in which this subject has been fully and freely discussed between us, the incompetency of the power of this government to become a party to the institution of tribunals organized like those stipulated in the conventions above noticed, and the incompatibility of such tribunals with the essential character of the constitutional rights guaranteed to every citizen of the union, has been shown by direct references to the fundamental principles of our government, in which the supreme, unlimited, sovereign power, is considered as inherent in the whole body of its people, while its delegations are limited and restricted by the terms of the instruments sanctioned by them, under which the powers of legislation, judgment, and execution, are administered; and by special indications of the articles in the constitution of the United States, which expressly prohibit their constituted authorities from erecting any judicial courts, by the forms of process belonging to which American citizens should be called to answer for any penal offence, without the intervention of a grand jury to accuse, and of a jury of trial to decide upon the charge.

But, while regretting that the character of the organized means of co-operation for the suppression of the African slave trade, proposed by Great Britain, did not admit of our concurrence in the adoption of them, the President has been far from the disposition to reject or disown the general proposition of concerted co-operation with Great Britain to the accomplishment of the common end—the suppression of the trade. For this purpose, armed cruisers of the United States have been for some time kept stationed on the coast which is the scene of this odious traffic; a measure which it is in the contemplation of this government to continue without intermission. As there are armed British vessels, charged with the same duty, constantly kept cruising on the same coast, I am directed by the President to propose, that instructions, to be concerted between the two governments, with a view to mutual assistance, should be

given to the commanders of the vessels respectively assigned to that service; that they may be ordered, whenever the occasion may render it convenient, to cruise in company together, to communicate mutually to each other all information obtained by the one, and which may be useful to the execution of the duties of the other, and to give each other every assistance which may be compatible with the performance of their own service and adapted to the end which is the common aim of both parties.

These measures, congenial to the spirit which has so long and so steadily marked the policy of the United States, in the vindication of the rights of humanity, will, it is hoped, prove effectual to the purposes for which this co-operation is desired by your government, and to which this union will continue to direct its most strenuous and persevering exertions.

I pray you, sir, to accept the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

Harrisburgh, Jan. 14.

Committees of both branches of the legislature yesterday determined to report a bill appropriating *ten thousand dollars per annum* towards the aid and support of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. This judicious and liberal measure, if sanctioned by the Senate and House of Representatives, as it is believed it will be, must shed lustre upon the character of our legislative councils.

Three girls and the same number of boys, from the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, were introduced into the hall of the House of Representatives at Harrisburgh, on the 12th instant, and their attainments and capacity for intellectual improvement exhibited to the observation of that assembly. The scene is said to have been of the most touching and edifying nature, and a strong sensation to have been produced in favour of the whole class of unfortunate beings. William Meredith, esq. of this city, an active and efficient patron of the institution, delivered, on the occasion, an appropriate and impressive speech, in which he developed the history of its origin and progress, and displayed the value and beauty of the results of which the system may be rendered productive.

Summary Statement of the Receipts and Payments at the Treasury of this State, for one Year, ending Nov. 30, 1820.

RECEIPTS.

Loans per acts 22d Dec. 1819, 17th and 28th March, 1820	\$150,000 00
Dividends on bank and other stock	127,027 00
Auction duties	49,210 51
Tax on banks	28,430 36
Tavern licenses	27,800 76
Lands, fees on lands, &c.	24,182 55
Tax on certain offices	16,830 70
Miscellaneous	8,523 26
Militia and exempt fines	7,891 22
Fees of the office of the secretary of the commonwealth	905 19
	440,801 55

PAYMENTS.		
Improvements		\$114,864 77
Senate		24,033 74
House of Representatives		64,523 05
Executive department		12,856 78
Judiciary department		54,635 74
Treasury department		9,018 32
Land department		9,207 41
Contingent expenses		3,438 69
Wardens of the port of Philadelphia		1,812 45
Militia expenses		15,017 41
Penitentiary near Pittsburgh		23,942 74
State capitol		51,006 00
Pensions		18,643 32
Miscellaneous		19,354 91
Interest on loans		17,186 67
Pennsylvania claimants		4,265 72
Expenses consequent to the late war with Great Britain		1,004 01
		453,043 05

The state possess—

Bank stock	\$2,108,700 00
Turnpike stock	1,006,200 81
Bridge stock	382,000 00

Votes in 1820 for President and Vice-president of the United States.

FOR PRESIDENT.	FOR VICE-PRESIDENT.		
	Whole No.	Monroe. Seat.	Tomp. Stock. Seat.
9 Maine	9	0	9 0 0
15 Massachusetts	15	0	7 8 0
8 New Hampshire	7	*1	7 0 1
8 Vermont	8	0	8 0 0
4 Rhode Island	4	0	4 0 0
9 Connecticut	9	0	9 0 0
29 New York	29	0	29 0 0
8 New Jersey	8	0	8 0 0
25 Pennsylvania	24	0	24 0 0
4 Delaware	4	0	0 0 4
11 Maryland	11	0	11 0 0
25 Virginia	25	0	25 0 0
15 North Carolina	15	0	15 0 0
11 South Carolina	11	0	11 0 0
8 Georgia	8	0	8 0 0
12 Kentucky	12	0	12 0 0
8 Tennessee	8	0	8 0 0
8 Ohio	8	0	8 0 0
3 Louisiana	3	0	3 0 0
3 Indiana	3	0	3 0 0
3 Mississippi	3	0	3 0 0
3 Illinois	3	0	3 0 0
3 Alabama	3	0	3 0 0
	232	230	1 218 8 5

* For J. Q. Adams.

TERMS OF PUBLICATION.

Subscriptions to the National Recorder may commence at any time, though it is desirable that they should begin with a volume: they may be withdrawn at the close of any volume, provided notice be sent before any part of the next volume shall have been forwarded. Payment to be made in July of each year for the whole year. Such as begin with the second volume of any year, to pay for that volume on the first of January following.

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